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Glossary of Schoenmaekers' Terminology

This glossary presents the principal philosophical and mathematical terms used by the Dutch thinker M. H. J. Schoenmaekers in his major works published between 1911 and 1916: *Christosophie*, *Mensch en Natuur*, *Het Nieuwe Wereldbeeld*, and *Beginselen der beeldende wiskunde*.

The glossary provides the original Dutch terms together with standardised English translations and explanatory notes clarifying their meaning within Schoenmaekers' philosophical system. Particular attention is given to key concepts such as polarity (*tegendeeligheid*), formative thinking (*beeldend denken*), and formative mathematics (*beeldende wiskunde*).

Schoenmaekers' ideas influenced the early theoretical development of the De Stijl movement and the work of artists such as Piet Mondrian and Theo van Doesburg. His philosophy explores the relationship between metaphysical polarity, geometry, and the formative structure of reality.

The glossary is intended as a reference tool for readers of Schoenmaekers' works and for scholars interested in the philosophical background of early twentieth-century modernism.

Source abbreviations used in the glossary are as follows:

[**C**] *Christosophie* (1911)
[**M**] *Mensch en Natuur* (1913)
[**N**] *Het Nieuwe Wereldbeeld* (1915)
[**B**] *Beginselen der beeldende wiskunde* (1916)

aandoening — emotional impression
The emotional impact of something perceived through the senses or experienced inwardly; generally less profound than *ontroering*. [C, M]

aanschouwen — behold
To perceive through contemplative seeing; to apprehend the formative essence of reality through direct beholding rather than through conceptual reasoning. This represents the highest mode of perception in Schoenmaekers' epistemology. [C, M, N, B]

aanschouwing — beholding
Direct contemplative seeing of the formative structure of reality; a mode of perception that apprehends essence rather than merely observing appearances. [C,M,N,B]

aanschouwbaar — beholdable
Capable of being beheld; able to become the object of beholding. The term indicates that the essence or formative structure of reality can become perceptible to contemplative insight. [C, M, N, B]

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aanschouwelijk — evident to beholding
Presented in a way that allows something to be grasped through beholding. The term describes clarity achieved through concrete presentation or intuitive perception rather than abstract reasoning. [C, M, N, B]

absoluteeren — to absolutise
To determine form according to absolute formative law, beyond relative distinction. Absoluteeren denotes the act by which what is given or relatively determined is brought into *volstrektheid* (absoluteness), through the recognition of its lawful structure. It proceeds by determining form through its essential relations (*verhoudingen*), freeing it from relative appearance. [B]

Almensch — All-Human (the principle)
The universal human reality present within every individual life. It denotes humanity as a spiritual unity rather than as a collective or social group. [C, M]

Almenselijke — All-Human (the adjective)
Pertaining to the *Almensch*; expressing the universal human dimension in which the one Life is present in every individual life. [C, M]

almenselijkheid — all-humanity (the condition)
The condition of participating in the *Almensch*: the universal human unity in which the one Life is present in every individual existence. [C, M]

bedachtzaam — reflective
Deliberate thoughtful awareness in thinking. [C, M, N, B]

bedachtzaamheid — reflectiveness
The reflective character of disciplined thinking. [C]

beeldend — formative
Pertaining to the active principle of form-generation. *Beeldend* denotes that which brings forth form from within, according to formative law, rather than merely describing or representing it. [C, M, N, B]

beeldend aanschouwen — formative beholding
Seeing the formative structure of reality. [C, N, B]

beeldend denken — formative thinking
A mode of thought that grasps reality through formative relations rather than isolated concepts, thereby revealing the inner law that structures reality: "*True thought is formative thought, and formative thought can be exact and communicable*." [B]

beeldend leven — formative life
Human life insofar as it expresses formative structure. [N]

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beeldend weten — formative knowing
knowing as an active, formative process that creates and recognises form. [N, B]

beeldend wezen — formative essence
The inner formative nature of a reality. [C, M, N]

beeldende fantasie — formative imagination
Imaginative power revealing formative structure. [M]

beeldende middelen — formative means
The concrete means through which formative relations are realised in perceptible form. These include elements such as line, colour, proportion, and position, understood not as technical devices but as vehicles of formative law.

beeldende verhouding — realised formative relation
The operative manifestation of a formative relation (*verhouding*). [B]

beeldende verklaring — formative explanation
An explanation revealing the formative structure of reality. [N, B]

beeldende werkzaamheid — formative activity
Human activity expressing inward formative law outwardly. [N]

beeldende wiskunde — formative mathematics
Study of formative laws of reality expressed in exact visual form. [N, B]

beelding — formative manifestation
The realisation of formative law in perceptible form. Beelding is not representation or depiction, but the emergence of form itself as the outward expression of inward relations. Through *beelding*, the formative principles of the Universe become manifest in determinate structures, giving rise to the ordered world of the *Kosmos*. [C, M, N, B]

beelding (plastisch) — formative manifestation (plastic)
The visible and concrete realisation of formative relations in spatial or perceptible form. The term emphasises *beelding* as it becomes outwardly effective and structured through plastic means (*beeldende middelen*).

begrijpen — understand
The act of forming a concept through thinking. [C, M, N, B]

begrip — concept
The intellectual form resulting from understanding. [C, M, N, B]

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begripvoorstelling — concept-presentation
An exact, formative presentation of a concept in which it becomes determined. It is not the representation of a concept, but its formative manifestation: a conceptual act through which the concept takes determinate form in a figure. The absence of the genitive "-s" (as in *begrip**s**voorstelling*) indicates that the concept is not presupposed as given, but becomes determined in its presentation. [M, N, B]

bepalen (tot vorm) — formative determination
The act by which form is brought to exactness. *Bepalen* signifies the progressive clarification and delimitation of relations until they attain precise and necessary form, governed by formative law. [C, M, N, B]

bepaling — determination (into form)
The act by which form is brought into determinate structure according to formative law. *Bepaling* denotes the determination of form through lawful relations (*verhoudingen*), whereby what is given becomes structurally defined. It stands in relation to *beelding* (formative manifestation), which is the outward realisation of what has been determined, and marks the transition from the given (*natuurgegeven*) to the formed. [B]

beweeglijk — formative mobility
Formative mobility of inwardness, governed by inner law. It denotes a controlled movement within the formative process, expressing the dynamic working-through (*doorbeelding*) of form. It stands between rigidity and arbitrariness and is determined by the lawful relation of counterparts. [B]

Bezonnen Wil — Composed Will
The unified, conscious will in which intellect (*verstand*) and feeling (*gevoel*) are inwardly joined into a single formative act. It is not mere volition, but a living unity of knowing and willing, through which the human being actively forms and recognises reality. [N]

bij benadering — by approximation
A formative mode of approach in which the relative is brought into lawful proximity to the absolute without being reduced to mere estimation. It denotes a controlled, formative approximation governed by inner necessity, rather than an imprecise or provisional estimate. [N, B]

constructie — formative construction
The realisation of formative relations into a coherent whole. Constructie is not mechanical assembly but the lawful bringing-together of counterparts into a unified structure determined from within. [M, N, B]

contrasten — contrasts
Non-polar differences between qualities or appearances. *Contrasten* denote distinctions that are perceptual or qualitative, without forming a unity of counterparts and without participation in polarity (*tegendeeligheid*). They do not express a formative relation, but remain at the level of appearance, where elements differ without structural or lawful relation (*verhouding*). [N]

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denkdrift — impulse to think
The spontaneous drive of human consciousness toward understanding. [B]

doorbeelding — formative working
The continuing inward shaping activity of a formative figure. [B]

doorschouwen — seeing through (formatively)
To see through something into its inner structure as a living unity.
It denotes a deeper, more immediate mode of seeing-through than *doorzien*, in which inwardness is revealed in and through outwardness. It stands closest to *aanschouwen* (beholding). [C, M, N, B]

doorzien — seeing through (analytically)
To see through something in such a way that its structure becomes intelligible.
It emphasises analytical penetration and conceptual clarity, often preparing or accompanying *aanschouwen* (beholding). [C, M, N, B]

dramatiek — dramatic structure
Expression of cosmic tension through human events. [M, N]

dramatisch-tragisch — dramatic-tragic
Expression of necessity through dramatic human events. [M, N, B]

duïteit — duality
Separation into two elements without the formative unity that characterises polarity (*tegendeeligheid*). [B]

evenwicht — equilibrium
A living balance of counterparts. *Evenwicht* is not static symmetry but dynamic equilibrium, in which opposing determinations are held in active relation and continuously maintain one another. [M, N, B]

evolutie — evolution
Vertical formative expansion of life or form. [C, M, N, B]

geboren woorden — born words
Naturally evolved words carrying inherent rational meaning. [N, B]

gemaakte woorden — constructed words
Artificially coined terms lacking inner linguistic logic. [N]

Gestalte — shape / formed body
A bounded surface or body-form arising when formative expansion is limited and enclosed. In Schoenmaekers' cosmology, *Gestalte* denotes the emergence of determinate form from formative movement and represents the first stable appearance of corporeal structure. [B]

Golgotha — Golgotha
Symbolic location where the cross structure appears dramatically in human history. [M, N]

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grijpen — grasp
The act of taking hold of reality as one's own. In Schoenmaekers, grijpen does not denote physical seizing, but the completed, unifying act of knowing in which what has been prepared through understanding (*begrijpen*) and revealed through beholding (*aanschouwen*) is appropriated as a single, living whole. It marks the transition from provisional knowledge to definitive possession of reality. [N]

Heelal — Universe (the Absolute Whole)
The unbounded unity of absolute counterparts and the ultimate ground of reality. The Universe precedes all determinate form and contains the formative principles from which the structured world arises. Through formative manifestation (*beelding*), the Universe becomes manifest as Kosmos. [C, M, N, B]

Heelalleven — Life of the Universe
The total living unity of creation. [C, B]

historie — history
Horizontal unfolding of events through time. [M, N]

ineenparing — pairing / union
Joining of counterparts into a living unity. [N]

innerlijk — inner
Pertaining to the inward formative aspect of reality. [C, M, N, B]

innerlijkheid — inwardness
The inward formative pole of polarity. [N, B]

inwendig — internal
The interior physical structure within a body. [C, N, B]

inzage — inspection
The analytical sensory stage of perception. [C, M, N, B]

inzicht — insight
The deepest stage of perception where essence is grasped. [C, M, N, B]

kijken — look
To perceive something visually but without basic awareness or recognition. The next mode of perception is *zien*. [C,M,N,B]

Kosmos — Kosmos
The determinate structured manifestation of the Universe. Kosmos denotes the ordered world of formed realities arising through formative manifestation (*beelding*), including nature, form, and history. [M, N, B]

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krachtlijn — line of force
A dynamic path expressing formative motion. [N]

kruis — cross
Symbolic representation of absolute counterparts. [M, N, B]

kruisconstructie — cross-construction
Structural crossing of vertical and horizontal principles. [N]

kruisvoorstelling — cross-representation
Conceptual or symbolic image of the cross structure. [N]

Leven — Life
The universal living principle permeating being. [C, M, N, B]

levenswoord — life-word
A fundamental word that expresses a living reality rather than a merely abstract concept. In Schoenmaekers it refers to words whose meaning must be grasped through *taalgevoel* (language-sense), revealing the formative relation between inner meaning and outward manifestation. [N, M]

lijn — line
The absolute temporal pole of polarity. [C, M, N, B]

lijnbeweging — line movement
Movement extending along a line. [M, N, B]

logische sprong — logical leap
Transition from relative thinking to absolute thinking. [B]

maat — measure
Relative application of number to phenomena. [C, M, N, B]

maatgevoel — sense of measure
Relative grasp of proportion. [B]

medelijden — pity
An emotional response that seeks to soften or remove another's suffering. In Schoenmaekers it denotes a sentimental reaction that treats suffering as something merely negative to be eliminated. [C, M]

mede-lijden — suffering-with (hyphenated)
Literally "suffering with." The sharing in another's suffering through emotional participation. Schoenmaekers treats it as a weaker response that remains bound to emotional identification rather than creative spiritual strength. [C, M]

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mededogen — compassion
A deeper response that accepts suffering as a necessary element of life and transforms it through inward creative strength. Compassion does not merely alleviate suffering but seeks to "beautify it from within." [C, M]

menschelijk denkleven — human life of thought
Humanity's collective formative thinking. [C]

menschelijk-beeldend — humanly formative
Human mode of perceiving formative structure. [C, M, N, B]

Moeten — necessity
The inward lawfulness requiring a certain development. [C, M, N, B]

mysterie — mystery
The hidden formative life within reality. [C, M, N, B]

natuur — nature
The living formative whole of reality. [C, M, N, B]

natuurgegeven — datum of nature
A phenomenon given in nature. [N, B]

Nieuwe Mens — New Human
The human being who has awakened to the formative structure of reality and lives consciously from the unity of counterparts. The New Human embodies the realisation of universal Life within individual existence and represents the ethical and spiritual goal of human evolution. [C, M, N]

Noodlot — Fate
Cosmic necessity appearing in human destiny. [C, M, N, B]

onderscheiding — distinction
The formative act of distinguishing relations. [C, N, B]

ontroering — inner stirring
A deep inward stirring or awakening of feeling in response to perceived unity or meaning. In Schoenmaekers' early writings it often denotes the affective-mystical awareness of unity, prior to conceptual analysis. [C, B]

onvoltooide tegendeelen — unfinished counterparts
Immature polar relations appearing contrasting. [N]

oorsprong — origin
The inward source from which forms arise. [C, M, N, B]

oorzakelijkheid — causality
Chain of cause and effect within historical unfolding. [M, N, B]

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oppervlakte — surface
Outward manifestation of inward life. [C, M, N, B]

overzicht — overview
Systematic grasp of relationships among phenomena. [B]

plastiek — plastic (formative realisation)
The realised, outward manifestation of form in which formative law becomes visible. *Plastiek* denotes form as constructed from inner law and presented as a coherent, determinate whole. It is not material or expressive in a subjective sense, but the objective manifestation of formative relations (*verhoudingen*). [M, N, B]

positief-mystisch — positive mystical
Mystical insight that is exact and verifiable. [N, B]

rede — reason
Higher faculty uniting understanding and insight. [C, M, N, B]

relativeeren — to relativise
To consider or determine form within the domain of relative distinction. *Relativeeren* denotes the act by which form is understood in terms of comparison, degree, or appearance, rather than according to absolute formative law. It remains within the relative, where distinctions are conditioned and not fully determined. [B]

scheppend leven — creative life
The living formative principle active in nature. [C, N]

Scheppingskracht — Creative Force
The divine formative power generating reality. [C, N, B]

straal — ray
The absolute spatial pole of polarity. [C, M, N, B]

straalbeweging — ray movement
Movement outward from a centre. [M, N, B]

taalgevoel — sense for life-words
Sensitivity to the inherent meaning of life-words (*levenswoorden*) enabling the concept they express to form itself clearly and exactly within thought. It is the receptive moment of formative thinking directed toward language. [N, M]

tegendeel — counterpart pole
One pole within a complementary pair. [C, M, N, B]

tegendeelen — counterparts
Complementary poles within a formative relation. *Tegendeelen* are not simple opposites but interdependent counterparts whose tension and unity generate form. [N, B]

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tegendeeligheid — polarity
The realised unity binding two complementary counterparts. [N, B]

TEGENDEELIGHEID — polarness
The capitalised word is the metaphysical principle generating polar relations. [N, B]

tegenheden — contraries
Antagonistic oppositional pairs. [B]

tegenovergesteldheden — opposites
A general, non-technical designation for things that appear opposed or different. *Tegenovergesteldheden* includes both polar relations (tegendeelen) and non-polar relations such as contraries (*tegenheden*) and contrasts (*contrasten*). It does not denote a specific formative relation, but a descriptive category in which different kinds of opposition or difference are grouped without distinction. [N, B]

tegenwezen — counter-being
That which stands over against something at the level of being, not merely as a counterpart within a relation, but as its active, formative ground or principle. The *tegenwezen* does not simply relate to the other, but generates, determines, or animates it. In Schoenmaekers' usage, the *tegenwezen* of matter (*stof*) is the Force (*Kracht*): the living, formative principle that stands over against and governs material reality. [N]

tijd — time
Absolute progression without beginning or end. [C, M, N, B]

tijd vervuld — time fulfilled
Moment when historical time becomes ready for evolutionary birth. [M, N]

tragiek — tragic structure
Structural manifestation of fate within life. [C, M, N, B]

tragisch — tragic
Visible occurrence of necessity within a human soul. [C, M, N, B]

uitbeelding — formative manifestation
Outward manifestation of what has been formed. [C, M, N, B]

uitbreiding — expansion
Outward extension of form. [M, N, B]

uiterlijkheid — outwardness
The outward expressive pole of polarity. [N, B]

uitwendig — external
The outward physical aspect exposed to observation. [M, N, B]

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verhouding(en) — formative relation(s)
The lawful structuring connection between counterparts. Verhoudingen constitute the inner order of form, determining how elements stand in relation to one another and giving rise to coherent unity. [M, N, B]

verschijning — appearance
The outward showing of form; that in which a formative structure becomes perceptible. Verschijning is not mere surface or illusion, but the visible aspect of an underlying formative reality. It presents form as it appears, without necessarily revealing the full inward law that generates it. [C, M, B]

verticale beweging — vertical movement
Movement from or toward a centre. [M, N]

volstrektheid — absoluteness
The condition of being determined according to absolute formative law, beyond relative distinction. *Volstrektheid* denotes the realisation of form in its pure, non-relative state, in which the unity of counterparts (*tegendeelen*) is fully determined within polarity (*tegendeeligheid*). It stands in contrast to the relative domain, where distinctions remain partial or conditioned, and marks the completion of formative determination (*bepaling*). [B]

voortdragen — to carry forward
History carrying forward what evolution has produced. [M]

voortgaan — to continue
The ongoing continuation of historical process. [M, N, B]

vormbeeld — formative image
Inner visual form generated by formative thought. [N, B]

vormengevoel — feeling for beautiful forms
Sensitivity to forms as more or less beautiful, remaining within the relative domain of aesthetic judgment. It apprehends form in appearance rather than according to formative structure. [B]

vormgevoel — feeling for the distinction of form
Sensitivity to the distinction of form according to its formative structure. It denotes the discernment of essential form-distinctions (*vormonderscheiding*) and is directed toward absoluteness (*volstrektheid*). [N, B]

vormonderscheiding — form-distinction
The distinction of form according to its lawful relations. *Vormonderscheiding* denotes the discernment of essential differences between forms as determined by their lawful relations (*verhoudingen*), rather than by appearance or degree. It belongs to formative (*beeldend*) perception and is directed toward absoluteness (*volstrektheid*), in which form is determined according to inner law (*wetmatigheid*). [B]

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waarheid — consciously beheld reality
Fulfilled inward certainty arising from the beholding of reality. Truth is reality consciously beheld and inwardly realised through contemplative insight. It stands in contrast to *zakelijkheid* and *werkelijkheid*. [C, M, N, B]

wereldbeeld — world-image
The formed, coherent vision of reality as a whole, arising from formative knowing (*beeldend weten*). It is not a passive "worldview," but an active, formative construction: a structured way in which reality is shaped, grasped, and continually re-formed. [N]

werkelijkheid — living relational reality
The living manifestation of formative law. Reality in Schoenmaekers does not consist of isolated facts (*zakelijkheid*), but of the dynamic manifestation of form determined through formative relations (*verhoudingen*) within the ordered world. It stands in contrast to *zakelijkheid* and *waarheid*. [C, M, N, B]

wetmatig — lawful
Governed by inner formative law. [C, M, N, B]

wetmatigheid — inner lawfulness
The structural necessity underlying forms. [C, M, N, B]

wezen — essence
The inner nature of a phenomenon. [C, M, N, B]

wezenlijk — essential
Pertaining to the fundamental nature of something. [C, M, N, B]

woordpreciseering — verbal reduction
Fixing living thought through rigid linguistic precision. [N, B]

zakelijkheid — thinghood
Reality reduced to mere objecthood: that which is treated as an isolated "thing" or "object," without living relation (*verhouding*) or recognition of inwardness (*innerlijkheid*). It pertains to what is merely given as fact and remains lifeless and non-formative. It stands in contrast to *werkelijkheid* and *waarheid*. [C, M]

zeggingswijze — mode of expression
The linguistic manner in which truth is articulated — that is, given form in language, as distinct from its formative manifestation (*beelding*) in reality. [C, N]

zien — see
To perceive something visually and recognise it as an object or phenomenon. The next mode of perception is *doorzien*. [C, M, N, B]

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zinnelijk — sensuous (experiential)
Pertaining to the lived, affective experience of the senses. It denotes the sensuous or felt dimension of perception, often carrying an element of immediacy, intensity, or embodiment. [C, M, B]

zinnelijk-aanschouwbaar — sensuously beholdable
Capable of being beheld in a sensuous, lived manner. It denotes that which is not merely perceptible to the senses, but can be inwardly experienced through sensuous beholding. [N, B]

zinnelijk aanschouwen — sensuous beholding
Beholding in which the content is not only perceived through the senses but inwardly lived and experienced. It denotes an immediate, embodied mode of beholding, in which perception is suffused with sensuous presence. [B]

zintuigelijk = ***zintuiglijk*** — sensory (perceptual)
Pertaining to perception through the senses; that which can be directly perceived or made visible to the senses. It denotes the outward, perceptual aspect of reality.
[N, B]

zwanger van leven — pregnant with life
Metaphor for history generating new form. [M, N]

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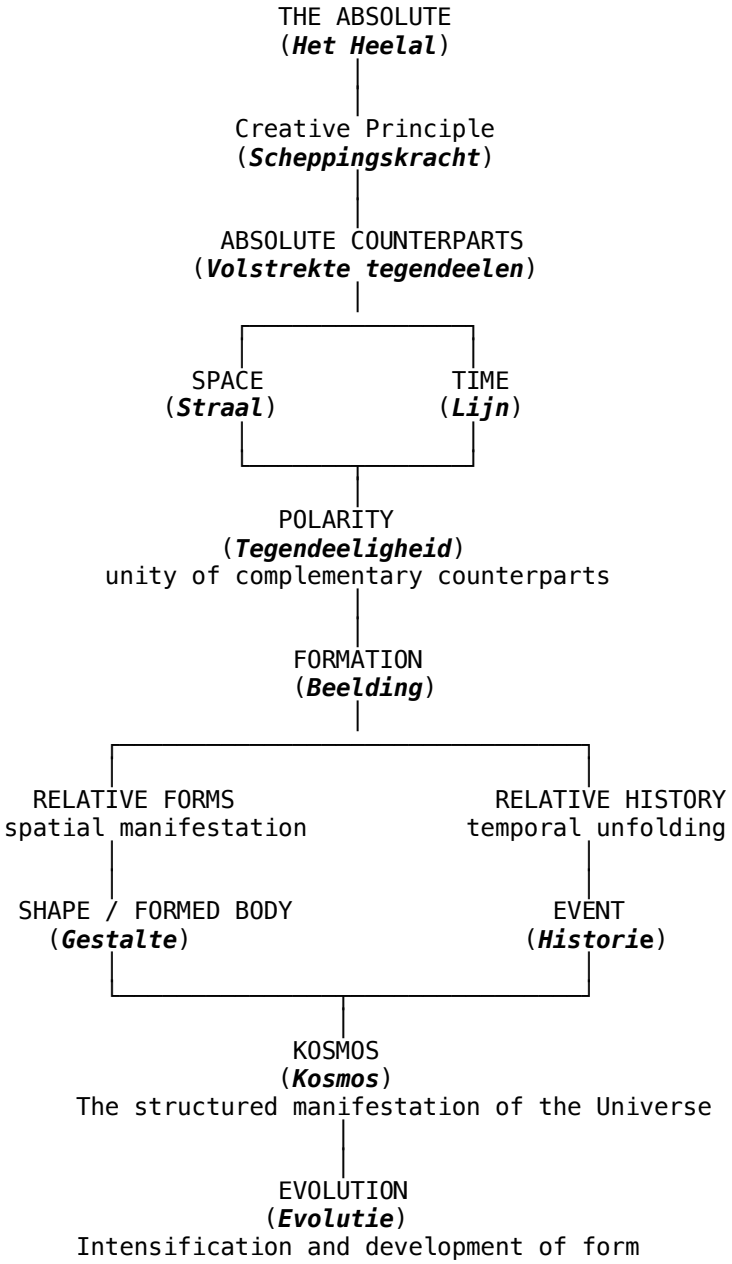
Structural Overview of Schoenmaekers' System



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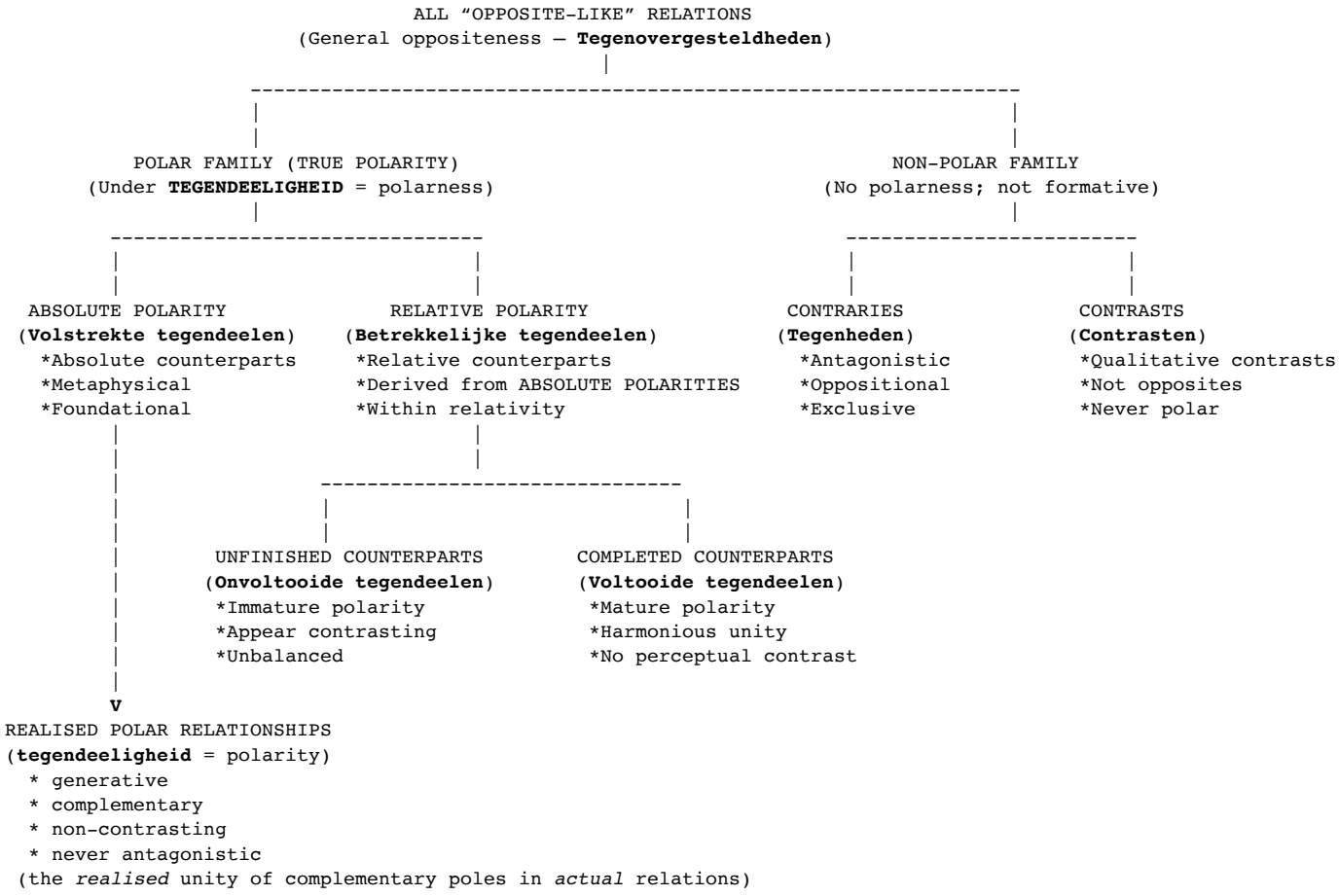
Comprehensive Polarity Diagram (Schoenmaekers)



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Master Table of All "Opposite-like" Relations

Category	Polar?	Complementary?	Contrasting?	Oppositional?	Contrary?	Antagonistic?	Formative?	Notes
Tegenovergesteldheden	MAYBE	MAYBE	OFTEN	SOMETIMES	SOMETIMES	SOMETIMES	NO	General descriptive "**opposites**" in everyday language; mixed category, not technical.
Tegendeelen	**YES**	**YES**	NO	NO	NO	NO	**YES**	True polar **counterparts**; umbrella term for all polarities.
Volstrekte tegendeelen	**YES**	**YES**	NO	NO	NO	NO	**YES**	**Absolute** metaphysical poles (Time–Space, etc.).
Betrekkelijke tegendeelen	**YES**	**YES**	NO	NO	NO	NO	**YES**	**Relative** counterparts; most of Schoenmaekers' uses.
Onvoltooide tegendeelen	**YES**	**YES (immature)**	*Appear* contrasting	NO (never in essence)	NO	NO	**YES**	**Unfinished** polarity; superficial appearance of contrast.
Voltooide tegendeelen	**YES**	**YES (completed)**	NO	NO	NO	NO	**YES**	**Completed** polarity; perfect unity; no contrast.
Tegenheden	NO	NO	**YES**	**YES**	**YES**	**YES**	NO	True **contraries:** exclusion, negation, conflict, antagonism.
Contrasten	NO	NO	**YES**	NO	NO	NO	NO	Simple perceptual or qualitative **contrasts**; never polar or antagonistic.

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Category Definitions

Tegenovergesteldheden — *opposites*; catch-all term for "opposites" in ordinary language. Includes both polar and non-polar relations. *Not a formal category in Schoenmaekers' system but useful descriptively.*

Tegendeelen — *counterparts*; any genuine polar pair. This is an umbrella term that includes both *absolute* and *relative* polarities.

Volstrekte tegendeelen — *absolute* counterparts - the metaphysical polarities that exist *before* any created, relative, or phenomenal forms.

Betrekkelijke tegendeelen — *relative* counterparts - the *relative* polarities that arise *because* the *absolute* poles express themselves in the world of phenomena, form, and experience.

Onvoltooide tegendeelen — *unfinished counterparts*; incomplete, immature relative polarities that *seem* contrasting.

Voltooide tegendeelen — *completed counterparts*; fully harmonised relative polarities; no contrast remains.

Tegenheden — *contraries*; oppositional pairs; belong to antagonism, not polarity.

Contrasten — *contrasts*; simple perceptual or qualitative pairs; non-polar. *Not a formal category in Schoenmaekers' system but useful descriptively.*

Column Definitions

Polar
Whether the pair expresses *tegendeeligheid* (polarity): a complementary, formative unity of two poles. If "yes," the relation is a true *tegendeel-pair*.

Complementary
Whether the two terms **belong together** as mutually dependent aspects of one structural whole. Complements complete one another; they never exclude or negate each other. *Onvoltooide tegendeelen* are genuinely complementary, but their unity is "immature" and not yet inwardly harmonised. *Voltooide tegendeelen* have complementarity that is fully "completed", since their two poles are inwardly harmonised into one unity with no remaining imbalance or appearance of contrast.

Contrasting
Whether the two terms **differ perceptually or qualitatively** (colour, intensity, texture, etc.). Contrast does not imply polarity or opposition. *Onvoltooide tegendeelen* may "appear contrasting" to ordinary perception because their unity is not yet completed.

Oppositional
Whether the terms stand in a relation of **conflict, exclusion, or negation**. Oppositional pairs push against or cancel each other. This is the domain of *tegenheden*, not *tegendeelen*. *Onvoltooide tegendeelen* may look unstable, but they are "never in essence" oppositional.

Contrary
Whether the relation is one of **logical contrariety**: two terms that cannot both be fully true at once, and tend toward exclusion. Contraries belong to antagonistic structures, not polar ones.

Antagonistic
Whether the relation is characterised by **active opposition or conflict**. Antagonistic pairs seek to overcome, cancel, or negate each other. Never true in polarity; always true in *tegenheden*.

Formative
Whether the relation contributes to *beelding* (formative generation of structure). Only true for polar relations (*tegendeelen*), which express the creative unity of activity and passivity.

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Examples of each category

NOTE: Examples in **bold** are taken directly from Schoenmaekers' writings. All other examples are *derived* from his system and included only to clarify the conceptual structure.

Tegenovergesteldheden (general oppositeness)
General descriptive "opposites" in everyday language; examples overlap with each of the categories.
Examples:

- **absolute Space - absolute Time** (*volstrekte*)
- **inward - outward** (*betrekkelijke*)
- emotional impulsiveness - restraint (*onvoltooide*)
- inward attention – outward action (*voltooide*)
- good - evil (*tegenheden*)
- red - green (*contrasten*)

These may be polar or non-polar — the term is loose and non-technical.

Tegendeelen (counterparts)
The general class of all true polar pairs (absolute or relative).
Examples:

- **inward – outward**
- **activity – passivity**
- **subject – object**
- expansion – concentration

Each pair expresses a unity of two.

Volstrekte tegendeelen (absolute counterparts)
First-order metaphysical polarities.
Examples:

- **absolute Space** (*volstrekte Ruimte*) – **absolute Tijd** (*volstrekte Tijd*)
- **Force** (*Kracht*) – **Substance** (*Stof*)
- **Creator – Creation**
- **Ray** (*straal*) – **Line** (*lijn*)

These govern the structure of the Universe, not sensory appearances.

Betrekkelijke tegendeelen (relative counterparts)
Relative expressions of absolute polarity.
Examples:

- **inward – outward**
- **activity – passivity**
- **subject – object**
- rising – sinking
- forming – dissolving

These are the polarities we experience in finite, created phenomena.

Onvoltooide tegendeelen (unfinished counterparts)
True polar pairs whose unity is not yet harmonised (appear contrasting).
Examples:

- emotional impulsiveness – restraint (when unstable in a person)
- inward withdrawal – outward agitation
- active striving – passive collapse
- excessive self-focus – excessive world-focus
- imbalance between thinking and willing

These are *immature* expressions of a real polarity.
They **appear contrasting**, but are not truly oppositional.

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Voltooide tegendeelen (completed counterparts)
Mature, harmonious polarity; fully unified.
Examples:

- **Kosmos-Heelal** (when consciously realised)
- inward attention – outward action
- active understanding – receptive reflection
- subjective intuition – objective clarity
- balanced giving – balanced receiving
- centred rest – purposeful movement

These are polarities where both poles operate in fully realised unity.
No contrast remains.

Tegenheden (contraries)
True contraries; antagonistic, exclusive, negating.
Examples:

- good – evil
- truth – falsehood
- being – non-being
- life – death (as being vs non-being)
- freedom – coercion

These **negate or exclude** one another.
They are **not** polar and never formative.

Contrasten (contrasts)
Non-polar sensory or qualitative contrasts; no unity, no complementarity.
Examples:

- red – green
- rough – smooth
- loud – quiet
- hot – cold
- bright – dim
- sweet – sour

Contrasts may *appear* opposite but do not form any unity of two.

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The Seven Orders of the Absolute

The **absolutes of the first through the seventh order** (*De volstrektheden van de eerste tot en met de zevende orde*) are developed in *Beginselen der beeldende wiskunde* (1916).

1. First Order — Absolute Spatial Radiation

Cosmic act:
The primal, directionless outward radiation of the One Creative Principle.

Formative result:
A perfectly directionless, perfectly undetermined *spatial centre* radiating equally in all directions.

Relative appearance:
Pure *space* as such; the fundamental openness into which all later determinations are set.

2. Second Order — Absolute Linear Progression (Time)

Cosmic act:
The fundamental inward–outward *line-character* arising from the reaction of line upon radius.

Formative result:
The absolute *time-line*: pure, undetermined, unbounded lineality—no beginning, no end.

Relative appearance:
Time as continuous, unbroken duration; the inherent linearity of temporal experience.

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3. Third Order — The Elliptical Plane (Un-set Excentricity)

Cosmic act:
Circular radius and circular line are *raised* into mutual tension; radius extends to unequal lengths, line receives unequal extension.

Formative result:
The **elliptical plane with un-set excentricity**: the line strives from *P* to *A*; the radius extends from M; the second focus arises as reaction-centre.

Relative appearance:
In nature:
– inertia as relative appearance of *I O stretch*
– gravity as relative appearance of the *P-ray*
– serpent and fish as relative symbolic appearances of *I O* and *P A*

4. Fourth Order — The Determinate Elliptical Plane (Excentricity Set to a Distance)

Cosmic act:
The previously "stretched" excentricity is now *set* to a determinate distance.

Formative result:
Two elliptical planes:

- an **inner plane** (non-parallel elliptical line-striving)
- an **outer plane** (parallel elliptical line-striving).
  This produces the **determinate elliptical line**.

At the shared point ***P,*** line and radius are fully enclosed into a single point: the first possibility of **body**.

Relative appearance:
The *P*-point gives rise to the first *plastic* formation → the origin of corporeality.

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5. Fifth Order — The Formation of Shape (*Gestalte*)

Cosmic act:
The plastic radiation from *P* is **limited**: the infinite expansion of the forming surface is "given boundary".

Formative result:
Gestalte — a *bounded surface*, a body-form that no longer expands.
It is "stille oppervlakte": the first stillness of form.

Relative appearance:
Most clearly in a **planet**, especially Earth (not the Sun):

- Sun = relative appearance of absolute space-radiation
- Earth = relative appearance of absolute shape-formation

This is the Kosmic ground of *body*, *form*, and *appearance*.

6. Sixth Order — The Elliptical Orbit (Cosmic Speed)

Cosmic act:
A new creative "impulse" moves the plastic centre itself along the determinate elliptical line, giving **real direction and real speed**.

Formative result:
The **elliptical orbit** (ommegang).
Speed is added as a new relative quantity.

This turns the static ellipse into a **time-bearing orbit**.

Relative appearance:
Planetary motion of the Earth around the Sun, confirmed in the three laws of Kepler.

This is the Kosmic origin of **forward continuity, lineage, propagation** (*voortplanting*).

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7. Seventh Order — Evolution (Cosmic Intensification)

Cosmic act:
The entire elliptical plane itself performs a **revolution** (straalwending) around the primal space-centre.

Formative result:
Evolution as a Kosmic, formative intensification:

- speed → line-quantity
- intensity → radius-quantity

Evolution is the *radial* counterpart of propagation, continually lifting species from level to level.

Relative appearance:
Relative evolution on Earth:

- emergence of higher life-forms
- the "sudden" changes in biological evolution (intensity, not speed)

Evolution is **intensification of form**.

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Master Summary Table

Order	Kosmic Act	Formative Result	Relative Appearance
1	Directionless radiation	Absolute space	Space itself
2	Line-character	Absolute time	Temporal continuity
3	Differential stretching	Elliptical plane (un-set)	*P*-ray, *I O*, serpent/fish symbolism
4	Excentricity "set"	Determinate ellipse; *P*-point	Birth of body; plastic formation
5	Limitation of surface	*Gestalte* (body-form)	Planetary bodies, Earth
6	First directional motion	Elliptical orbit	Kepler's laws; propagation
7	Revolution of whole plane	Evolution (intensity)	Biological evolution